United Nations E/AC.51/2014/L.4/Add.30

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
27 June 2014

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Fifty-fourth session
2-27 June 2014
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Programme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

1. At its 6th meeting, on 4 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 1)). The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework (E/AC.51/2014/CRP.1/Add.1).

2. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed general support for the overall objectives of the programme and recognized the importance of services provided to the Member States by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

4. The progress achieved in the integrated global management of conference services in the four duty stations for improving the quality and efficiency of conference services was appreciated. Clarification was sought on how the four duty

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stations were being coordinated under the integrated global management of conference services.

5. It was recognized that the services provided by the Department had an impact on the work of the Member States, and it was emphasized that ensuring the balance between quality and timeliness in the processing and issuance of documents and the provision of services was of utmost importance.

6. It was recalled that, in its resolution on multilingualism, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to ensure that all language services were given equal treatment. It was emphasized that the principles of multilingualism in the United Nations should be fully implemented and that this should not in any way compromise the quality of services rendered. The view was expressed that multilingualism was of utmost importance for non-English-speaking countries, and it was pointed out that some documents were available only in English.

7. Some delegations expressed support for the progress made in the implementation of the pilot project relating to the paper-smart initiative. At the same time, concerns were expressed by some delegations regarding the implementation of the paper-smart initiative, given that there is no mandate from the General Assembly.

8. The question was raised as to how the Department would address the issue of accessibility for people with disabilities.

9. Clarification was sought as to why reference to retired language staff, who have experience and contribute to the quality of documentation, had been omitted from the strategy under subprogramme 3. Clarification was also sought as to the impact that retired staff had on the Department in the context of possible loss of institutional memory.

10. Regarding subprogrammes 3 and 4 relating to the four duty stations, clarification was sought with regard to the provision contained in the new indicator of achievement relating to the expansion of the freelance staff rosters in all languages and disciplines by at least 15 per cent.

11. A question was raised as to what further efforts were being made to adopt the use of new technologies to further realize efficiencies and effectiveness by expanding the use of electronic tools.

12. Delegations took note of the changes proposed by the Committee on Conferences, contained in annex II to conference room paper E/AC.51/2014/CRP.1/Add.1.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee for Programme and Coordination welcomed the Department's efforts to promote greater efficiencies in the delivery of quality conference services in order to support the intergovernmental processes and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to further such efficiencies within the Department.**

14. **The Committee stressed the need for the Secretariat to apply common standards for quality control of documents processed by external translators in**

all four duty stations in order to ensure high-quality translations in all six official languages.

15. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed strategic framework, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 1.3

At the beginning of the paragraph, insert the following: "The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management at Headquarters and the conference-servicing organizational entities at the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi are responsible for the implementation of the programme and the achievement of its objectives."

After the phrase "Guided by Assembly resolutions 57/300", insert "66/233".

At the end of the paragraph, add the following: "The Department will continue to provide, in a proactive manner, the intergovernmental and expert bodies it services with technical, procedural and substantive secretariat, protocol and liaison, and conference-servicing support so as to achieve synergies and full-system benefits across the four conference-servicing duty stations."

Paragraph 1.4

In the sixth sentence, after the phrase "Those efforts", insert ", subject to the provisions of the above-mentioned General Assembly resolutions,".

Paragraph 1.5

Replace the words "provide better quality assurance of the expanded contractual translation services" with the words "provide better quality assurance of the translation services, including contractual services".

Paragraph 1.6

Replace the existing text with "An effort will be made to build a larger and more balanced pool of qualified language staff across languages and duty stations by encouraging promising candidates to apply for open positions through various means, including the revamped competitive language examination process, the Department's Universities Outreach Programme and internships and traineeships, in compliance with United Nations recruitment standards regarding language staff. The programme will continue to emphasize the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into its subprogrammes".

A. Conference management, New York

Subprogramme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (a) (i), delete the word "written".

In indicator (b), replace the existing text with "100 per cent compliance with the submission deadline for parliamentary documentation and efficient and effective interdepartmental support to the intergovernmental bodies, with equal treatment given to all official languages".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.7 (b)

After the phrase "the Economic and Social Council", insert "and its subsidiary bodies".

Paragraph 1.7 (c)

Replace the existing text with "Assistance to representatives of Member States on all matters relating to the effective scheduling and conduct of meetings, including the provision of an advance programme of work and the timely issuance of documentation and communications in all official languages".

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Strategy

Paragraph 1.8 (b) (i)

Replace the existing text with "Ensuring the timely availability, in all official languages, of high-quality documentation through regular consultations and active dialogue with document submitters and committee secretariats in order to assist them in meeting the submission standards".

Paragraph 1.8 (c)

Replace the existing text with "Strengthening the responsibility and accountability system within the Secretariat in order to ensure the timely processing of documents and their timely issuance to Member States and meeting participants in all official languages, and in accordance with the six-week rule for the availability of documentation, unless otherwise decided by the relevant decision-making bodies".

Paragraph 1.8 (d)

Replace the existing text with "Improving capacity planning in coordination with subprogrammes 3 and 4, further refining methods for

projecting and analysing the volume, composition and timing of future workload, and establishing capacity-planning targets for all processing units in order to ensure the timely issuance of mandated pre-session documentation in all official languages".

Paragraph 1.8 (g)

After the phrase "outreach to clients", insert the phrase "in accordance with legislative mandates".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality referencing, editing, translation, précis-writing and text-processing of parliamentary documentation and other written materials, in all official languages, ensuring due respect for the specificity of each language".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Improved cost-effectiveness of editing, translation, précis-writing and text-processing services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Renumber indicator of achievement (c) as (c) (i) and add indicator (c) (ii), as follows:

"(c) (ii) Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.9

After subparagraph (b), insert a new subparagraph (c), as follows:

"(c) No changes of a substantive nature made to texts of both draft and adopted resolutions agreed by Member States during the Secretariat's editing process;".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality interpretation, verbatim reporting, copy-editing, desktop publishing, printing, distribution and meetings services in all official languages".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Increased cost-effectiveness of interpretation, verbatim reporting, copy-editing, desktop publishing, printing, distribution and meetings services

without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Renumber indicator of achievement (c) as (c) (i) and add indicator (c) (ii), as follows:

"(c) (ii) Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

B. Conference management, Geneva

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Strategy

Paragraph 1.11 (b) (i)

Replace the existing text with "Ensuring the timely availability, in all official languages, of high-quality documentation through regular consultations and active dialogue with document submitters and committee secretariats in order to assist them in meeting the submission standards".

Paragraph 1.11 (c)

Replace the existing text with "Strengthening the responsibility and accountability system within the Secretariat in order to ensure the timely processing of documents and their timely issuance to Member States and meeting participants in all official languages, and in accordance with the six-week rule for the availability of documentation, unless otherwise decided by the relevant decision-making bodies".

Paragraph 1.11 (d)

Replace the existing text with "Improving capacity planning in coordination with subprogrammes 3 and 4, further refining methods for projecting and analysing the volume, composition and timing of future workload, and establishing capacity-planning targets for all processing units in order to ensure the timely issuance of mandated pre-session documentation in all official languages".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality referencing, editing, translation and text-processing of parliamentary documentation and other written materials, in all official languages, ensuring due respect for the specificity of each language".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Improved cost-effectiveness of editing, translation and text-processing

services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Renumber indicator of achievement (c) as (c) (i) and add indicator (c) (ii), as follows:

"(c) (ii) Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.12

After subparagraph (b), insert a new subparagraph (c), as follows:

"(c) No changes of a substantive nature made to texts of both draft and adopted resolutions agreed by Member States during the Secretariat's editing process;".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality interpretation, copy-editing, desktop publishing, printing, distribution and meetings services, in all official languages".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Increased cost-effectiveness of interpretation, copy-editing, desktop publishing, printing, distribution and meetings services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Add indicator of achievement (b), as follows:

"(b) Increased number of users of the e-subscription system".

Renumber indicator of achievement (c) as (c) (i) and add indicator (c) (ii), as follows:

"(c) (ii) Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

C. Conference management, Vienna

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Indicators of achievement

Add indicator of achievement (b), as follows:

"(b) Increased percentage of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States provided with interpretation services as available".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.14 (c)

Replace the existing text with "Strengthening the responsibility and accountability system within the Secretariat in order to ensure the timely processing of documents and their timely issuance to Member States and meeting participants in all official languages, and in accordance with the six-week rule for the availability of documentation, unless otherwise decided by the relevant decision-making bodies".

Paragraph 1.14 (d)

Replace the existing text with "Improving capacity planning in coordination with subprogrammes 3 and 4, further refining methods for projecting and analysing the volume, composition and timing of future workload, and establishing capacity-planning targets for all processing units in order to ensure the timely issuance of mandated pre-session documentation in all official languages".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality referencing, editing, translation and text-processing of parliamentary documentation and other written materials, in all official languages, ensuring due respect for the specificity of each language".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Improved cost-effectiveness of editing, translation and text-processing services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Renumber indicator of achievement (c) as (c) (i) and add indicator (c) (ii), as follows:

"(c) (ii) Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.15

After subparagraph (b), insert a new subparagraph (c), as follows:

"(c) No changes of a substantive nature made to texts of both draft and adopted resolutions agreed by Member States during the Secretariat's editing process;".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality interpretation, desktop publishing, publishing and meetings services, in all official languages".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Increased cost-effectiveness of interpretation, desktop publishing, publishing and meetings services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Add indicator of achievement (b), as follows:

"(b) Increased number of users of the e-subscription system".

Renumber indicator of achievement (c) as (c) (i) and add indicator (c) (ii), as follows:

"(c) (ii) Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

D. Conference management, Nairobi

Subprogramme 2
Planning and coordination of conference services

Indicators of achievement

Add indicator of achievement (b), as follows:

"(b) Increased percentage of meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States provided with interpretation services as available".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.17 (c)

Replace the existing text with "Strengthening the responsibility and accountability system within the Secretariat in order to ensure the timely processing of documents and their timely issuance to Member States and meeting participants in all official languages, and in accordance with the six-week rule for the availability of documentation, unless otherwise decided by the relevant decision-making bodies".

Paragraph 1.17 (d)

Replace the existing text with "Improving capacity planning in coordination with subprogrammes 3 and 4, further refining methods for projecting and analysing the volume, composition and timing of future workload, and establishing capacity-planning targets for all processing units in order to ensure the timely issuance of mandated pre-session documentation in all official languages".

Subprogramme 3
Documentation services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality referencing, editing, translation and text-processing of parliamentary documentation and other written materials, in all official languages, ensuring due respect for the specificity of each language".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Improved cost-effectiveness of editing, translation and text-processing services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Renumber indicator of achievement (c) as (c) (i) and add indicator (c) (ii), as follows:

"(c) (ii) Reduced imbalances across language combinations".

Strategy

Paragraph 1.18

After subparagraph (b), insert a new subparagraph (c), as follows:

"(c) No changes of a substantive nature made to texts of both draft and adopted resolutions agreed by Member States during the Secretariat's editing process;".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the existing text with "High-quality interpretation, desktop publishing, publishing and meetings services, in all official languages".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the existing text with "Increased cost-effectiveness of interpretation, desktop publishing, publishing and meetings services without adversely affecting the quality and scope of services, as mandated by relevant General Assembly resolutions".

Indicators of achievement

Add indicator of achievement (b), as follows:

"(b) Increased number of users of the e-subscription system".

Renumber indicator of achievement (c) as (c) (i) and add indicator (c) (ii), as follows:

"(c) (ii) Reduced imbalances across language combinations".